

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-01
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PEPR KS US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT PARK'S PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH-NORTH EXCHANGE:
PRESS COVERAGE

1. PRESS EMPHASIZES THREE MAIN POINTS IN PRESIDENT'S STATE-
MENT: 1) PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TRADE, TECHNOLOGY AND
CAPITAL 2) PROPOSAL TO FORM PRIVATE ECONOMIC COOPERATION
COUNCIL 3) IF NEEDED, WILLINGNESS TO HOLD MINISTERIAL-
LEVEL CONFERENCE.

2. BLUE HOUSE SENIOR PRESS SECRETARY YIM BANG-HYON IS QUOTED
IN EXPLANATORY REMARKS AS FOLLOWS: "THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL
DOES NOT MEAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AS A STATE OR GOVERN-
MENT, BUT RECOGNIZES NORTH KOREA AS OUR COUNTERPART FOR
NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE NATIONAL ISSUES. THE MINISTERIAL-
LEVEL MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED JUST IN CASE THE PRIVATE SECTOR
ALONE FINDS DIFFICULTY IN SETTLING ISSUES -- IT IS NOT
MEANT TO DENY THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH/NORTH COORDINATING
COMMITTEE--IT IS AN EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY CHANNELS FOR SOUTH/
NORTH DIALOGUE. THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO EXAMINE
FULLY SPECIFIC METHODS OF COOPERATION, IF NORTH KOREA

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IS PREPARED TO POSITIVELY CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL.

3. PRESS REPORTS A "ROKG OFFICIAL" EMPHASIZED THE CAPITAL
AND TRADE COOPERATION WITH NORTH KOREA IS DESIGNED TO
AID NORTH KOREA IN PRODUCTION OF DAILY CIVILIAN NECESSI-
TIES; IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CAPITAL FOR PRODUCTION
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SAME OFFICIAL LISTED FOLLOWING

ITEMS ROK PREPARED TO SEND TO NORTH KOREA: RICE ;
TEXTILES, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, HOME ELECTRICAL
GOODS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND TRANSPORTATION
EQUIPMENT. FROM NORTH KOREA, THE FOLLOWING COULD BE
EXPECTED TO BE SENT SOUTH: COAL, ORES, ZINC, LIVESTOCK
FEED, CORN, HERBAL MEDICINES, POLLACK, AND LEATHER.

4. POLITICAL PARTY REACTION IS UNIFORMLY POSITIVE:
"GREAT, COURAGEOUS DECISION" (DRP); "INTENDED TO LESSEN
HARDSHIP OF NORTH KOREAN PEOPLE AND SHOULD ATTRACT
SUPPORT FROM ENTIRE WORLD" (YUCHONGHOE); "WELCOMED
AS A REALISTIC AND CONVINCING PROPOSAL" (NDP). BUSINESS
LEADERS, PROFESSORS AND COMMENTATORS ALL ENDORSE
PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, BUT MANY EXPRESS OPINION THAT
PROPOSAL WILL BE REJECTED BY NORTH KOREA.

5. ONLY ONE PAPER REPORTS FORMAL DOS RESPONSE WILL BE
ISSUED 6/23 IN WASHINGTON AND QUOTES DOS SPOKESMAN KEN
BROWN IN INITIAL REACTION: "US HAS ALWAYS WELCOMED
SOUTH/NORTH KOREAN DIALOGUE. PRESIDENT PARK'S PROPOSAL
THIS TIME APPEARS TO BE A POSITIVE ONE."
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Message Attributes

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